known in the course of a few days. Generally speaking, it may be taken that the object of this Government is to start industries as quickly and as efficaciously as possible. Nothing will stand in their way. Whether money is forthcoming or not, trained personnel has to be got from England or America as the case may be and they will be accordingly secured. But the idea of this Government at the same time is to make all these industries Travancore industries in the long run.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Are we to take from the statement of the President that Government have advised the company to give their employees a low salary when compared with the pay obtainable elsewhere?

PRESIDENT : Certainly. We have definitely said so. For instance, when the Tatas started their work in India, they secured the services of Mr. Peterson for whom they paid a monthly salary of Rs. 37,500 for a kind of general supervision. At that time the founder Tata was alive and he said that adequate salary should be paid for skilled people. If a man will devote one hour of his day to the work and if I find he is a first rate man, I am perfectly willing to proceed on that plan. My own view exactly squares with them. But another thing has to be said. If as a result of their intensive work they go on offering fancy wages, it will be impossible for other industries, agricultural or otherwise, to get on in the State. If that happens, many persons will be on their waiting list and even if they do not get work for a few days they will be able to get five to six times the wages for their working days and that very easily. To avoid such a state of affairs happening in the Fertilisers, I have put a stipulation both as to the maximum number of persons to be employed and the wages to be given by them.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether this is the justification for taking a non-Travancore Indian?

PRESIDENT : It does not matter whether a non-Travancore Indian or European is taken. If a man has to be paid high wages for a special kind of work and if a fully equipped man becomes available, he will certainly be employed on any wage that can be afforded by Government, but on this condition that he is here not on a permanent lien but to train people to take his place and to leave as courteously and speedily as possible.

Paddy purchased by Government during 1119.

79. * **MR. S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI** : Will the Government be pleased :

(*a*) to give a taluk-war statement of the amount of local paddy purchased by Government during the year 1119 ;

(*b*) to state the number of ration units purchased by private individuals, families and bodies in Nanjinad, *i. e.*, in the taluks of Thovala, and Agastiswaram in the year 1119 ; and

(*c*) to state the names of the two taluks in the State in which the largest and the smallest number of ration units have been purchased by private individuals, families and bodies in the year 1119 and

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[Muthukaruppa Pillai.]

also the number of units so purchased, the population as per the latest census and the percentage of population in receipt of such ration in those two taluks?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Food Supplies*): (*a*) A * statement furnishing the required information is laid on the table.

(*b*) 6,22,826.

(*c*) The taluk in which the largest number of units of ration has been purchased is Trivandrum (including the City).

The total number of units purchased in Trivandrum taluk—75,06,601.
Population according to 1941 census in Trivandrum taluk—2,87,898.
Percentage of population in receipt of ration in Trivandrum taluk—78·5.

The taluk in which the smallest number of units of ration has been purchased is Thovala.

Total number of units purchased in Thovala taluk—25,686.
Population according to 1941 census in Thovala—43,324.
Percentage of population in receipt of ration Thovala taluk—1·4.

Rationing officers.

80. * MR. E. K. MADHAVAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have decided to appoint separate rationing officers for the taluks of Parur and Kunnatnad and if so, when and if not, why not?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No separate Rationing Officer has been appointed in any taluk in the State. Assistant Purchasing and Rationing Officers have been appointed to assist the Taluk Purchasing and Rationing Officers and such an Officer is functioning in the Kunnatnad taluk. The post is now vacant at Parur.

Green gram.

81. * MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the price per candy at which they are selling green gram to ration shops: and

(*b*) the price at which it is sold in the open market?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) No green gram is sold to ration merchants now.

(*b*) The price is reported to vary from Rs. 110 to Rs. 120 per candy.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what the price of green gram was two months back?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I have no information.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the member be pleased to collect the information.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

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